

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/709,332
Docket No.: 12889-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 9 is noted with great appreciation.

Claims 1-26 remain pending of which claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 15 and 20-24 have been amended, and new claims 25 and 26 have been newly added, to more explicitly describe the claimed invention. Amendments to claims 1 and 15 are fully supported at paragraphs [0042] and [0047]. Therefore, it is believed that no new matter adds by way of amendment to claims or otherwise to the application.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-26 are in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the Abstract of the disclosure and the disclosure because there is no space between some of the words.

In response thereto, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informalities and accordingly amended the Abstract and the disclosure. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 2, 6 and 20 because of some minor informalities.

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In response thereto, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informalities and accordingly amended claims 2, 6 and 20 as suggested. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 112

1. The Office Action objected to claims 15-24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response thereto, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informalities and accordingly amended claims 15. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

2. The Office Action objected to claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response thereto, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informalities and accordingly amended claims 11. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 5-8, 10, 15, 19-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nanto et al. (US-6,297,590, hereinafter Nanto).

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the above rejections as set forth

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below.

The present invention is generally related to a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp suitable for use in a liquid crystal display (LCD). Particularly, the cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp is adopted for illuminating the LCD panel.

The proposed independent claims 1 and 15, as amended, is allowable over Nanto for at least the reason that Nanto substantially fails to teach or disclose every features of the claimed invention. More specifically, Nanto substantially fails to teach or disclose a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp suitable for use as a backlight source of a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel as required by the proposed amended independent claims 1 and 15. Instead, Nanto substantially teaches a structure of a surface discharge plasma display panel, which is a self-illuminant type of a display panel. In other words, the surface discharge plasma display panel of Nanto itself is a self-illuminant type of a display panel and it is not used as a backlight source of a LCD panel (for illuminating an LCD panel).

Thus, it is clear that Nanto substantially fails to teach or disclose a cold cathode flat lamp for use as a backlight source of a LCD panel, instead Nanto substantially teaches a structure of a plasma display panel, and therefore Nanto cannot possibly anticipate the amended proposed independent claims 1 and 15 in this regard.

Furthermore, the light shielding film (45), having a belt shape extending along the display line direction, formed on either internal or outer surface of the front substrate (11) to overlap each area S2 between the adjacent display lines L and sandwiched between the display electrodes X and Y, of Nanto; which the Examiner interpreted as equivalent of the first light control layer of the claimed invention; is in

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fact adopted for blocking the external light from entering into the plasma display panel in order to improve the display contrast (col. 3, lines 5-10). Thus, it is clear that Nanto cannot possibly teach or disclose a first light control layer (light shielding film 45), disposed overlapping portions of the fluorescence layer corresponding to the light exit plane of such that intensity of light exiting from the first control layer is substantially same as that of light exiting from other portions of the fluorescence not overlapped by the first control layer as required the amended proposed independent claim 1; and a light control layer, disposed overlapping portions of the fluorescence layer corresponding to the bottom surface such that intensity of light exiting from the portions of the fluorescence layer overlapped by the light control layer and the light control layer is substantially same as that of light exiting from other portions of the fluorescence layer not overlapped by the light control layer as required the amended proposed independent claim 15.

Furthermore, because the newly added proposed claims 25 and 26 are also recite features similar to those recited by the amended proposed independent claims 1 and 15, and therefore the newly added proposed claims 25 and 26 also patently define over Nanto for at least the same reasons substantially discussed above.

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Claims 5-8, 10, 19-22 and 24, which directly or indirectly depend from the independent Claims 1 and 15, are also patentable over Nanto at least because of their dependency from the allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5-8, 10, 15, 19-22 and 24-26 patently define over Nanto. Reconsideration and withdrawal of above rejections is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 103

1. The Office Action rejected claims 2 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanto in view of Park et al. (US-6,858,979, hereinafter Park'979).

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that the sidebar of Park'979 still cannot cure the specific deficiencies of Nanto for at least the reasons as substantially discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 2 and 16 also patently define over Nanto and Park'979 for at least the same reasons discussed above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

2. The Office Action rejected claims 3-4 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanto in view of Park et al. (US-6,744,195, hereinafter Park'195).

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that the even though Park'195 discloses the discharge gases, still Park'195 cannot cure the specific deficiencies of Nanto for at least the reasons as substantially discussed above, and therefore claims 3-4 and 17-18 also patently define over Nanto and Park'195 for at least

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the same reasons discussed above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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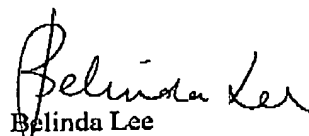
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-26 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Date :

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